**The Roman Catholic Parish of Ss. Peter & Michael**

 **Woolston in the Warrington and Widnes Deanery** 

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair) J M (Vice Chair); Fr. M D; M F (Secretary); T H; G A; T O; J W; M W; G T; T W (Treasurer); K L; V M; M H 2; C G; P D; T F; C W 2; I W; C H

 **1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

J L G welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

 **2 Apologies**

M H 1; C W 1; J J G

 **3 Chair Introduction and Matters Arising From Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th January 2024 was accepted by the Parish Council. G A confirmed to the Parish Council that the list for those who wished to join the parish trip to Lourdes was up at the back of church and that he had advertised the trip to other parishes. G A also said that he had sent a letter to Woolston Parish Council asking for a contribution to the costs of the trip and was awaiting a response from their treasurer.

The new kitchen had now been installed in the church house and Fr. M D thanked the workmen and parishioners who helped with the preparation and installation of the kitchen. There were no other matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

 **4 Liturgy**

J M said that weekend Mass attendances in January 2024 were an average of 150 parishioners attending Mass, up 9.7% on December 2023 and up 12.6% on January 2023. J M said that these were very good increases.

J M said from next Sunday there would be three new Eucharistic ministers as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks had now been completed. Now that they had DBS clearance, the three new Eucharistic Ministers would shadow existing Eucharistic ministers over the following three weeks before being allowed to make visits to parishioners on their own.

J M also said that in Lent, commencing on Ash Wednesday, Fr. M D would hold a service of Stations of the Cross instead of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament before the Wednesday Evening Mass at 7.00pm. J M added that at a recent Deanery Synodal Council meeting it was also agreed that on one week in Lent, the Stations of the Cross would be held in one church in the deanery. There would be no Stations of the Cross at St Peter’s in that week to encourage parishioners to attend the deanery service. St Peter’s school would also be contacted to agree which week they would lead the Stations of the Cross, the service commencing at 6.00pm instead of 7pm.

J M said he would hold a pre-Easter planning meeting in the next couple of weeks and the Parish Council also agreed to set up the Easter Garden on Friday, 22nd March 2024 but have this covered over with a cloth on Good Friday.

 **5 Progress on ‘Reaching Out’**

J L G and T F had designed an example of a leaflet which could be displayed widely in shops and the library in the parish. A draft of the leaflet was circulated to the members of the Parish council. Once the dates of the ‘Reaching Out’ parish social events, was agreed, the leaflet could be finalised and then issued.

J L G said he had been approached by G C on behalf of Warrington Borough Council education authority on the subject of a Mental Health Awareness and a local charity covering young persons’ mental health awareness. J L G said that the social event planned for ‘Reaching Out’ to all in the parish could also raise funds for this excellent cause. The ‘With Love Steph’ charity would again provide the resources as they did for the ‘Winter Wonderland’ event and the social event could include games for the children, cake stall, tombola, toys and crafts.

The Parish Council agreed the date of the parish social event as Sunday 3rd March 2024, and that the event would be publicised in the church bulletin and on the church website.

 **6 Legion of Mary PPC**

Fr. M D said that he has spoken to the Legion of Mary about holding a Legion of Mary Peregrinatio Pro Christo (PPC) in the parish between May and August 2024. The Legion of Mary would send about 10 people to the parish and the PPC would be a seven day event starting from a Saturday and closing with Evening Mass on the following Saturday.

The Legionnaires would require bed and breakfast accommodating within the parish. They would pay £100 per family they stayed with. The Legionnaires would go out three times a day with objective of visiting every home in the parish, complete a census of parishioners and encourage people to return to the Sacraments.

The Parish Council agreed this was a great idea and also would help with the ‘Reaching Out’ initiative. The Legion of Mary just needed two dates to consider before they could confirm if they could hold the PPC in the parish. The Parish Council agreed dates as the weeks commencing 18th May 2024 and 1st June 2024 and that a note about the PPC would be put in the church bulletin and on the church website.

 **7 Hymnal Plus**

Fr M D said that Hymnal Plus is a music system which provides music when there would otherwise be no music at Mass.

Fr M D said he had used the system before and it contained an enormous library of hymns and recorded music that would give good cover for musicians. The purchase price for a stand-alone system is around £2,000.00.

The Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase of Hymnal Plus to be funded either partly or in whole by the lottery fund.

 **8 Children’s Liturgy**

M H 2 said she was trying to get a group of parishioners together to get the Children’s liturgy up and running. Fr. M D said the school needed to be involved and J L G agreed to contact H L, the Headteacher at St Peter’s Primary School to get their assistance in this matter. J L G said he would also clarify any safeguarding issues with D B the parish safeguarding representative.

Fr M D said the parish should aim to start the Children’s Liturgy on the Sunday after Easter Sunday. The Parish Council established a sub-group to lead the Children’s Liturgy group with the aim of holding the liturgy initially once a month.

 **9 AOB**

St Peter’s Primary School Governing Body

V M notified the Parish Council that she had stepped down as Chair of governors at St Peter’s Primary School after sixteen year’s service in December 2023. The Parish Council wished to record their thanks to V M on her excellent work in this role over many years.

St Peter’s Parish bookkeeper

The current parish bookkeeper, P H, is reluctantly stepping down from the role after many years of excellent service in the position. The Parish Council agreed to advertise this role in the church bulletin and on the parish website.

**10 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**11 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm with a prayer led by J M.